



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 2095-S, STOP 0203
Washington, DC 20250-0203

May 13, 2019

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Christian Salazar
MuckRock News
Department MR 70871
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, Massachusetts
70871-67829687@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Final Response to FOIA Request 2019-AMS-00114-F

Dear Mr. Salazar:

This is the final response to the above referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that was received by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on March 27, 2019. You requested Cattlemen's Beef Board (Board) emails and reports referencing Meatless Mondays. The date range for responsive records is January 1, 2017, through March 1, 2019.

The AMS FOIA staff works with subject matter experts across the Agency to locate responsive documents. For this request, a search was conducted within the Board. The Cattlemen's Beef Research and Promotion Program is administered by the Board. The program's goal is to develop and expand markets for beef and beef products. AMS' search began on March 27, 2019 and concluded on April 2, 2019. The search provided responsive records in AMS' control during that time.

We have processed 25 pages that are responsive to your request. After a thorough review, we have determined that portions of eight pages are exempt from disclosure under (b)(4) and (b)(6) of the FOIA 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended. The remaining 17 pages are being released in their entirety.

Exemption (b)(4) of the FOIA protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." Disclosure of this information may cause substantial competitive harm to the person from which this information was obtained. Further, disclosure of this information may impair the government's ability to obtain necessary information in the future. The information redacted pursuant to Exemption 4 includes the identity of a supporting group involved in a California Beef Council research project and the amount of financial support provided. If released to the public, this information could be used by competitors exposing the organization to substantial competitive harm.

Exemption (b)(6) of the FOIA permits the government to withhold information regarding individuals in "personal and medical files and similar files" when the disclosure of such information "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" and where such privacy interests outweigh any public interest which would be advanced by the disclosure of their information. Within this record set, AMS is withholding personal email addresses and

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cellular telephone numbers. Release of this information could result in unwanted contact with the individual concerned and the possibility of identity theft.

This concludes processing of your request. You may appeal this response within 90 days from the date of this letter. Your appeal should be clearly marked to indicate that it contains a FOIA appeal and include specific reasons why you believe modification of the initial action is warranted. Any such appeal should be in writing and addressed to:

Bruce Summers
Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Stop 0201, Room 3071
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

If you have any questions about the way this request was handled, please contact Jewell Little at (202) 572-5441 or jewell.little@usda.gov. If you have general questions or concerns regarding AMS' FOIA procedures or regulations, please contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Bill Allen, at (202) 720-3785 or via email at ams.foia@usda.gov.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll-free at 1-(877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Thank you for your interest in AMS programs and policies.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Brook

Mark R. Brook
FOIA Officer
Agricultural Marketing Service

Enclosure